

At Home On The Range Pet Cemetery, LLC

8400 Amsterdam Road
Manhattan, Montana 59741

(406) 282-REST (7378)

www.AtHomeOnTheRange.net

SENATE AGRICULTURE

EXHIBIT NO. 18

DATE 3-12-09

BILL NO. HB 418

Horse Slaughter Bill Presentation – March 12, 2009

My name is Nancy Bates and my husband Dan & I started a business in 2001 called At Home On The Range Pet Cemetery. We saw an opportunity to provide horse owners an option other than the landfill for their deceased horse. Many ranchers bury their own horses or just leave them out in a field to let Mother Nature and other animals take care of the carcass...which is legal to do here in Montana as long as the animal does not have the euthanasia drug in them. Others will call a neighbor, borrow equipment or rent a backhoe to take care of their horse. There are some horse owners that do not have this option available to them. For example they may only have an acre or two or they may board their horse out. That is where we step in. We offer pickup service for deceased animals followed by either burial or cremation. Most of our clients come to us through their veterinarian, or by word of mouth, or from one of our advertisements. Many times our services are arranged for the same time that the Veterinarian is present for euthanasia. Other times, when say a owner heads out to feed in the morning and notices one has died, then we are called for the removal. Bakers Commodities has done many horse removals also. They are out of the Butte/Missoula area. Many landfills also accept deceased animals. I checked out the Logan Landfill website yesterday, and it costs \$30 to take a horse there. On a historical note, the horse has made this country what it is today. They provided transportation services for many many years. They fought in wars. They delivered the sick to a doctor or brought a doctor to the sick. Without them, there wouldn't have been food on the table before we had our tractors and combines. Today, the horse provides companionship to many people. Others use them as a tool in their business. Should they be punished because of irresponsible and greedy breeders? Yes, they are considered livestock here in Montana. Yes, we do have slaughter plants for other livestock, like cows and pigs and chickens. But here in the US we eat cows and pigs and chickens. There are many other options for horses here in Montana and all over the US other than a slaughter facility. Those options being everything from our Pet Cemetery business to rescue facilities to donating them to a non-profit organization like Eagle Mount in Bozeman, which provides a wonderful riding program for the handicap and disabled. With the way our economy is heading,

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it would be extremely convenient for people that have breed and raised a 100 head or more of horses to just take the ones that don't sell right away to a slaughter house and get a few bucks for them. It will also be very convenient for people to steal horses and take them to a slaughter house and get a few bucks for them. There are so many options out there for people to utilize other than a slaughter house. They have a legal responsibility for the animals, and to give them an easy 'out' of their responsibility is not very responsible of our society. And on a personal note, Montana is an awesome state. We have, in my opinion, the most incredible place for people to come and visit. Do we want to be the ONLY place in the US to have a Horse Slaughter Plant? And then be labeled with a new state logo that I heard a gentleman mention on the radio the other day...Montana, the Last Worst Place for a Horse.

Thank you for your time.



Pet Cemetery

"Providing Compassionate Final Care For All Pets"

Cremation, Burial & Pickup Service

For All Animals *(Hamsters to Horses)*

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COPING WITH YOUR LOSS

The Second Sunday in September is set aside as National Pet Memorial Day — a day you may want to set aside to remember or visit the final resting place of your friend who will live forever in your heart.

There are many other ways to deal with the loss of a beloved pet and friend. The list below contains a few ideas you may want to consider:

- Write a tribute or make a photo album or a combination of both.
- Set a picture of your pet on the mantel or by your computer.
- Release a balloon with a special message written to your pet.
- Volunteer at an animal shelter.
- Offer to pet-set for the neighbors while they are away.
- Adopt a pet from an animal shelter when you are ready to provide for a new friend.

Please visit www.AtHomeOnTheRange.net for more grief support help and information.



Rainbow Bridge

Just this side of Heaven is a place called Rainbow Bridge.

When an animal dies - one that has been especially close to someone here - that pet goes to Rainbow Bridge. There are meadows and hills for our special friends so they can run and play together. There is plenty of food and water, sunshine and cozy beds, and our friends are warm and comfortable.

All the animals who had been ill and old are restored to health and vigor; those who were hurt or maimed are made whole and strong again, just as we remember them in our dreams of days and times gone by. The animals are happy and content, except for one small thing: they each miss someone very special, someone who had to be left behind.

They all run and play together, but the day comes when one suddenly stops and looks into the distance. His bright eyes are intent; his eager body quivers. Suddenly, he breaks from the group, flying over the green grass - his legs carrying him faster and faster.

You have been spotted, and when you and your special friend finally meet, you cling together in joyous reunion, never to be parted again. The happy kisses rain on your face; your hands again caress the beloved head, and you look once more into the trusting eyes of your pet - so long gone but never absent from your heart.

Then you cross the Rainbow Bridge together.

M A Preston

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For All Animals"*

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*Dan & Nancy Bates
8400 Amsterdam Road
Manhattan, Montana 59741*

In case of an emergency, call:
580-4417 (Nancy's Cell)
580-1849 (Dan's Cell)



Member of IAOPCC



We started At Home On The Range Pet Cemetery in 2001 on our Family Farm, located in the hills West of Amsterdam (approx. 20 miles from Bozeman, Montana). Many deceased horses, dogs, cats and other pets were ending up at the landfill and we felt that it was time pet owners had a dignified final care option for their companions.

In the Spring of 2003 we expanded our business by purchasing our first cremation unit. By offering pickup service from Veterinary Clinics and homes from all over SW and Central Montana (for all animals, hamsters to horses), we soon became very busy.

Horse Cremation was an option that many horse owners discussed with us. In 2005, we purchased a larger cremation unit to accommodate horses and other large animals.

In 2007 we started our web-site and offer a large variety of urns, memorial markers, keepsake items and grief support information there to assist pet owners.

We truly love our business of providing a service for people at a time of great sorrow. Our goal is to always try to make the passing of a beloved pet easier.

**With warmest regards,
The Bates Family**

Making decisions regarding the final care for your pet can be very difficult. Please do not hesitate to contact us or your veterinarian with any questions or concerns.

Burial

*Burial & Pickup Service is
available for all animals...*
(Hamsters to Horses)

Our Cemetery is located in the hills West of Amsterdam in a natural setting. Farm Fields, the Bridger, Spanish Peaks, Tobacco Root Mountain Ranges and the Horseshoe Hills are the views from this final resting area.

We provide two types of Burial Options: **Farm Field Burial** or a **Cemetery Burial** (where a marker may be purchased for the burial site). Our most common option for horse owners and other large animal owners is our **Farm Field Burial**. It is an affordable choice for owners to utilize as an alternative to the landfill for their companions.

Memorial Markers, Garden Stones, and other items can be viewed on our website: www.AtHomeOnTheRange.net or contact us for many more options that are in the process of being added to the website.

*Pick-up service provided from Veterinary Hospitals
Pick-up service from homes is also available
If you would prefer to deliver your pet, please make an
appointment by phone in advance.*

Cremation

*Cremation & Pickup Service is
available for all animals...*
(Hamsters to Horses)

We have found since starting our business that many pet owners opt for cremation for the final care for their pet. We offer two types of cremation:

Individual or Communal Cremation.

When an owner decides on **Individual Cremation, your pet's cremains (ashes) are returned back to you.** Owners are welcome to witness their pet's cremation, if they so desire. (Please contact us in advance to let us know you would like to witness your pet's cremation.)

Your pet's cremains will be returned in a decorative tin, enclosed inside a velvet bag. For alternative urns, **please visit our website:** www.AtHomeOnTheRange.net or contact us for many more options that are in the process of being added to the website.

If **Communal Cremation** is your preference, we will spread/bury your pet's cremains (ashes) in our Pet Cemetery. Communal Cremation is an affordable choice for pet owners to utilize as an alternative to the landfill.

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